



# NEWS RELEASE

## COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

### Seventh District

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Councilmember Emerald Saves Neighborhood Park**

Yesterday, Councilmember Marti Emerald gained the unanimous support of the City Council in stopping the City from abandoning a joint use park project in the College Area. City staff had compiled a list of projects to be defunded, including the project to create a joint use artificial turf sports field at the Language Academy Elementary School on Montezuma Road.

Councilmember Emerald said, "The Language Academy turf field project should not be on the list because it is fully funded, designed, and ready to be built." She pointed out that the Council funded the project nearly three years ago, and the College Area is one of the most park deficient communities in San Diego. The hearing went on for over an hour as city staff members were peppered with questions from Councilmembers regarding the many delays to the fully funded project. In the end, the Council unanimously agreed to complete the project and requested the Mayor's office expedite construction.

There was an outpouring of support for the project from the community, including many who spoke at the hearing. Among the speakers were several students from the school. The Language Academy is a foreign language magnet school formerly known as Montezuma Elementary. The community has engaged in a decade-long effort to support the park, including raising over \$50,000 of their own money.

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